CLAIMS

1. An implant for fixing neighbouring bone plates of the cranial bone, wherein said plates have an inner surface and an outer surface and the implant comprises an inner bearing element which covers a spacing gap between the bone plates, an outer bearing element which covers the spacing gap and a connecting device which extends through the spacing gap and which, when the bearing elements approach one another, connects said bearing elements together by means of a latching or a clamping connection in such a manner that they are no longer able to be moved apart, wherein the two bearing elements are additionally connected by means of a thread-like tensioning element which is passed through the outer bearing element in displaceable manner and, when tensioned, moves the inner bearing element towards the outer bearing element.

2. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the tensioning element is located at the inner bearing element.

3. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the tensioning element is passed through two openings in the inner bearing element and extends over the outer surface of the inner bearing element that is remote from the outer bearing element in the area between the openings.

4. An implant in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the two ends of the tensioning element are passed through a respective opening in the outer bearing element.

5. An implant in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the two openings in the inner bearing element are spaced from one another by a distance which corresponds to at least half the elongation of the inner bearing element in the direction of interconnection.

6. An implant in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the connecting device is arranged between the two sections of the tensioning element extending between the bearing elements.

7. An implant in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the dimensions of the connecting device in a direction transverse to the plane spanned by the sections of the tensioning element extending between the two bearing elements is small so as to enable the passage thereof through the spacing gap.

8. An implant in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the tensioning element is fed through the inner bearing element from the outer surface thereof in the form of a loop which extends through two mutually spaced openings in the outer bearing element so that, between these openings, the loop rests on the outer surface of the outer bearing element which is remote from the inner bearing element.

9. An implant in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the openings for the loop and the openings for the ends of the tensioning element in the outer bearing element lie along a straight line.

10. An implant in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the openings for the loop and the openings for the ends of the tensioning element are mutually equidistant.

11. An implant in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the loop extends through two mutually spaced openings in the inner bearing element.

12. An implant in accordance with Claim 11, wherein the openings for the loop and the openings for the ends of the tensioning element in the inner bearing element lie along a straight line.

13. An implant in accordance with Claim 11, wherein the openings for the loop and the openings for the ends of the tensioning element in the inner bearing element are mutually equidistant.

14. An implant in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the sections of the tensioning element extending between the bearing elements, the loop and the connecting device are arranged in a plane.

15. An implant in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the tensioning element is freely displaceable in relation to both bearing elements and is therefore adapted to be withdrawn from both bearing elements after they have been connected by the connecting means.

16. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the tensioning element consists of a material that is absorbable in the body.

17. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the connecting device is arranged in the area between the bearing elements and does not project outwardly therethrough.

18. An implant in accordance with Claim 17, wherein latching projections are arranged on both bearing elements on the inner surfaces thereof facing the other bearing element, said latching projections engaging behind one another in latching manner when the bearing elements approach one another.

19. An implant in accordance with Claim 18, wherein two mutually adjacent latching elements are arranged on a bearing element, and wherein a latching element on the other bearing element engages between said adjacent latching elements in latching manner when the bearing elements approach one another.

20. An implant in accordance with Claim 18, wherein at least one of the latching elements carries a plurality of latching projections.

21. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein at least two mutually adjacent connecting devices are arranged on the bearing elements, said connecting devices having small dimensions in a direction transverse to the plane defined thereby.

22. An implant in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the connecting devices comprise latching or clamping pins which are fixed to the inner bearing element and penetrate through latching or clamping openings in the outer bearing element.

23. An implant in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the latching or clamping openings carry latching projections which co-operate with latching projections on the latching or clamping pins.

24. An implant in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the latching or clamping openings comprise resiliently deformable clamping members which co-operate with the surface of the latching or clamping pins.

25. An implant in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the bearing elements and the connecting device is formed in one-piece from a synthetic material.